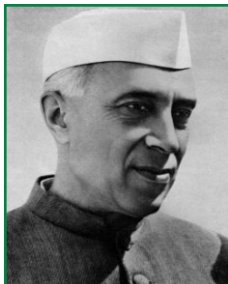




Bimonthly Journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University



A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for the adventure of ideas and for the search of truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards ever higher objectives. If the Universities discharge their duties adequately, then it is well with the Nation and the People.

Jawaharlal Nehru



The symbol is a graphic statement which stands for international academic exchange and onwards search of knowledge for the betterment of human being.

The overlapping circular segments of the design denote global interaction, creating a flame emitting enlightenment, this flame emerges out of the traditional Indian 'diya' (lamp)-a source of Light, Understanding and Brotherhood.

The design is also representative of the rose-bud closely associated with the name of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.



JNU News is a bimonthly journal of Jawaharlal Nehru University. It serves to bridge the information gap and tries to initiate constant dialogue between various constituents of the University community as well as with the rest of the academic world. Views expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily of JNU News. All articles and reports published in it may be freely reproduced with acknowledgment.

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Vice – Chancellor's Speech.....

Excerpts from Vice Chancellor's Speech Delivered on 3 December, 2015 at the University Court Meeting

Before I initiate today's proceedings, I wish to mention that the former President of India, and Visitor of JNU during 2002-2007, Bharat Ratna, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, passed away during his lecture at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong on 27.07.2015. Dr. Kalam visited JNU last year also to deliver a memorial lecture. On behalf of JNU and this august body, we pay our heartiest homage to the great soul.

Now, I move to the regular proceedings.

Our Chancellor has been taking keen interest in the development and growth of this University. He took time to visit various Schools/Centres to meet and interact with faculty and students about the on-going teaching and research activities and the new endeavours envisaged which is highly motivating. The Chancellor was also gracious enough to deliver the A.P. Mitra Memorial Lecture on 18 November, 2015 and inaugurated the Kannada Chair in JNU.

On behalf of the Executive Council of the University, I have great pleasure in placing before you the **45th Annual Report** for the period 2014-15 in fulfillment of the requirements of Statute 12(1) of the University Act and Statutes of the University. The Finance Officer shall present the **Annual Accounts for the year 2014-15, Revised Estimates for 2015-16 and Budget Estimates for the year 2016-17**. The major achievements and activities of the University during 2014-15 have been elaborated in the Annual Report. Valuable suggestions of the members are welcome as always. Proceedings of the Executive Council are part of the agenda. Financial year 2014-15 was the third year of the XII Five-Year Plan. As I mentioned last year, we had to cut down our plans for major expansion and upgradation work due to inadequate grant for the XIIth Plan period.

Now, I would like to make a brief presentation on some of the achievements/activities and new initiatives during the period 2014-15. Full details are given in the Annual Report sent to the Members along with agenda papers. After our website was modified last year, many activities and achievements are updated on the website on day-to-day basis.

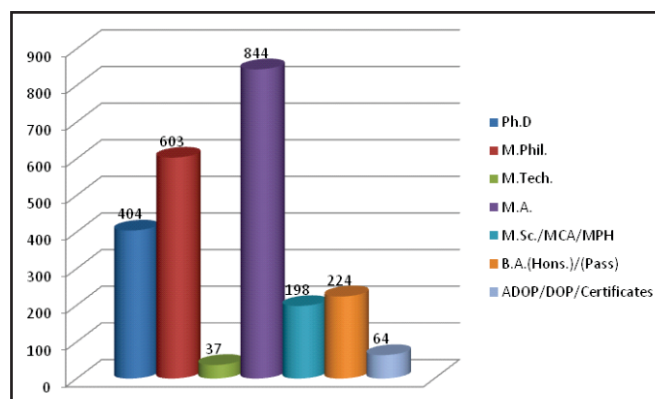
Faculty Output:

Besides evolving innovative programs of study and courses, teaching, guiding and conducting research beyond the conventional bonds of their areas of specialization, members of faculty are engaged in writing and editing books, contributing chapters to volumes, publishing papers and articles, organizing and participating in seminars, conferences and workshops, delivering lectures and managing research

projects. Members will be happy to know that we encourage our research students to participate in national and international conferences/ seminars/ workshops and sports competitions by providing financial support, to enable them to present their papers/posters, etc. During 2014-15, the combined output of the faculty amounted to the following:

• Books	133
• Chapters in books	303
• Papers/Articles in Journals	943
• Participation in Seminars/Conferences/Workshops	1786
• Lectures delivered (outside JNU)	974
• Research Projects	450 (including projects under UPE-II)

The details on number of Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates awarded during the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 are given below:



Degree awarded from JNU (Excluding recognized institutions)

Students: Total students' strength as on 1st September, 2014 was 8308. The strength after this year's admission (2015-16) has gone upto 8432. This figure is after the departure of annual pass-outs.

Admissions: The JNU entrance examination for admission to various programmes of study for the academic year 2015-16 was conducted at 76 Centres in 51 cities located in 30 States/Union Territories. In addition, the University also conducted the Combined Entrance Examination for Biotechnology for admission to M.Sc. (Biotechnology); M.Sc. (Agri.)/M.V.Sc. Biotechnology and M.Tech. (Biotechnology) programmes on behalf of participating universities.

Vice – Chancellor's Speech.....

Library Facilities: Central Library has taken a number of initiatives to improve the quality of service and for upgradation, expansion and outreach activities. The library is open round the clock. Books are procured through online shops. Electronic resource management is used. There is a bibliographic database. New barcode plastic membership cards have been issued; special membership has been extended to ex-faculty; barcode scanner and label printers have been procured; single window search has been made available; digitization has been expanded, Turnitin check and certification has been made mandatory for theses and dissertations; plagiarism awareness workshops have been organized; research profile/citation profile for faculty has been created; article alert facilities have been set up; laptops have been provided to all visually challenged Ph.D and M.Phil scholars. Wheelchairs have been provided to physically disabled students, and a number of interactive sessions on various issues have been organized through the year.

Communication and Information Services (CIS): JNU Website and Intranet Portal are available 24x7; data centre services have been implemented for hosting and maintenance of central IT infrastructure applications on JNU Private Cloud Services; around 12,000 nodes are connected on the JNU Network presently; ICT Skill Development Training Programmes in English/Hindi for JNU Staff have been offered; some teaching and learning Technologies – Video Conferencing, Smart Classroom, EduSat, Aview, Live webcasting have been deployed; JNU Campus Network (Wired and Wi-Fi) has been expanded and strengthened in all Academic Complexes, Guesthouses, a few hostels and setting up of Wi-Fi Gardens in the campus, JNU Email services have been provided to faculty, staff and students, Surveillance System at Main Entry Gates has been deployed and desktops and all other IT related peripherals are managed in the Campus and antivirus provided at endpoints.

Report on Digital India Week for JNU News:

Communication & Information Services (CIS), JNU, organized the Digital India Week programme on 3-4 July, 2015. The objective of this programme was to disseminate the information & promotion of Digital Strength, ICT initiatives of the University and knowledge sharing of digital resources.

Finance and Accounts Department:

- The University is primarily funded by the UGC and receives both plan and non-plan grants.
- The University utilized 91% of the funds received from UGC during 11th 5 year Plan.
- The University has utilized 82% of the 12th 5-year Plan funds released till 31st March, 2015.

Non-Plan Non-Salary Grant:

- The UGC had marginally enhanced the non-salary budget under non-plan grant by Rs. 2.80 crores to Rs. 24.27 crores during 2012-13 and continued to restrict to Rs. 24.27 crores non-salary budget during 2014-2015,
- A large part of these funds were spent on electricity, water, telephone and security services.
- The expenditure on these essential services is set to rise due to increase in tariffs by concerned agencies and due to coming up of new academic buildings.
- As a result, there was hardly any non-plan budgetary support for other important academic activities like library/computers/laboratories and maintenance of buildings / other routine maintenance.

Faculty Recruitments and Promotions: After the adoption of new UGC Regulations in May 2011, the University has advertised 490 vacancies beginning with November, 2011. The details of recruitments made since then are given below for the information of honourable members of the Court.

Category	Number of Selection Committee meeting		Number of candidates selected	
	Open	Promotions	Open	Promotions
Professor	64	117	49*	108
Associate Professor	109	31	89	31
Assistant Professor	160	-	133	-
Assistant Professor (Stage-III)	-	39	-	37
Assistant Professor /Sr. Scale / (Stage-II)	-	29+18= 47	-	29+17=44
Total	333	234	271	222

*02 Professor under Statute 28 of the Statutes of the University.

Vice – Chancellor's Speech.....

We have a sanctioned strength of 896 teaching positions with filled up strength of 598 as on 30.11.2015. Besides, 42 offers of appointments have been made as on 30.11.2015. After these, University will have on its rolls approximately 640 faculty members very shortly. We will have to work towards providing

adequate infrastructural facilities as well as housing as more faculty is inducted in future.

- Faculty under UGC-Faculty Recharge Scheme : 08
- DST-INSPIRE Faculty Scheme : 06

Recruitment and Promotion of non-teaching staff: Recruitment, Promotions & MACP

Group	2011			2012			2013			2014			2015 (up to 13/11/2015)		
	Open	Promo	MACP	Open	Promo	MACP	Open	Promo	MACP	Open	Promo	MACP	Open	Promo	MACP
Group 'A'	11	8	-	6	1	-	11	2	-	5	6	2	3	2	0
Group 'B'	2	32	-	17	34	-	9	24	-	27	18	14	23	8	12
Group 'C'	34	29	-	37	31	2	37	51	23	71	37	214	16	29	81
Total	47	69	0	60	66	2	57	77	23	103	61	230	42	39	93
G. Total	From 2011 to 2015 (13.11.2015)												269	312	376

NEW PROGRAMMES INTRODUCED:

Updation/ revision of courses is a regular process. Besides, a number of new programmes will be introduced as detailed below:

2015-16

- 3-year BA (Hons.) programme in Pashto.
- M.Phil. / Ph.D. programme in Media Studies in the Centre of Media Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- M.Phil /Ph.D. Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion in the Centre for the Studies in Discrimination and Exclusion, School of Social Sciences.
- To re-start pre-Ph.D./ Ph.D. programme in Molecular Medicine through NET qualified candidates. Certificate of Proficiency Course in Pali Language and Literature in the Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies.
- M.A. programme in Development and Labour Studies in the Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- Integrated M.Sc.-Ph.D. programme in Computational Biology and in Complex Systems in the School of Computational and Integrative Sciences. (Complex Systems, subject to UGC concurrence being a unique course of its kind in the country).

Inter-Hostel Administration (IHA):

University had planned to construct Shipra-II about 20 months ago. Once a NoC is issued, we will start construction work immediately to construct the hostel. Apart from this, keeping in view the urgent need for accommodating new students and those waiting from previous years' list, the University initiated effective steps to create more dormitory spaces in Shipra, Koyna and Chandrabhaga hostels accommodating more than 400 girls. A new dormitory near old CRS building has recently been completed for allotment to boys. Renovation of Damodar hostel is in progress and allotment of extra created seats there will be done shortly. Damodar Hostel has been provided with regular mess facilities. Another Hostel proposal for funding submitted to the Department of North Eastern Region, Government of India, is under consideration and the sanction of funds is expected shortly. In this connection, I must express my sincere thanks and appreciation of the efforts made by Dr. Jitender Singh, Minister of the Department of North-East Region and Minister of State, DoPT in the Prime Minister's Office, who has visited the University a couple of times to ensure that this proposal materializes.

Health Centre:

Appointments for different specialists/ OPDs at the Health Centre can now be taken online, and also by phone or by visiting OPDs in morning/ evening. In all, 60,785 total numbers of patients inclusive of students/ retired employees and others visited the morning and evening OPDs at the Health Centre during the year 2014-2015.

Vice – Chancellor's Speech.....

Sports Activities:

JNU students have participated in many competitions outside and have won medals in some of the areas like yoga championship, para Asian games, chess, National Sports Meet for the Blind, etc.

Cultural Activities:

JNU has students from different regions of the country and abroad bringing with them a repertoire of regional cultures and customs. They try to present their indigenous talents in the various events organized through the year under the aegis of Cultural Committee of the University.

Academic Staff College:

During the period under report, Academic Staff College, renamed by UGC as UGC-Human Resource Development Centres has tried to encourage participants to develop multi-disciplinary approaches and finer understanding and skills. To this end, the Centre organized 5 Orientation programme, 12 Refresher courses and 3 Short term programmes with 171, 242, 15 participants respectively:

Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study (JNIAS):

Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study is envisaged as a self-contained site of scholarly pursuits in an environment of intellectual fellowship and a source of academic enrichment for the university community. During this period four Fellows joined JNIAS from abroad. The Institute organized four Colloquiums, Seminars and Workshops with the JNIAS Fellows. JNIAS Fellows were also invited at numerous occasions to speak within and outside the JNU.

Institutional Ethics Review Board (IERB):

The Institutional Ethics Review Board has been consistently committed to the dissemination of ethical research in all disciplines at JNU. Since March this year, it has reviewed more than 32 proposals from faculty, M.Phil. and Ph.D students of various Centres. IERB is currently engaged in designing a set of ethical guidelines for social sciences research which may be a trend setter for the ICSSR/UGC as well as the rest of the country.

International Collaboration / Networking:

A large number of Universities from all over the world are seeking academic collaboration with JNU. This is essential for pooling and exchange of information, for sharing of experiences, resources and research findings. With the advancement of communication technology, the global internet exchange provides us a great opportunity to help students better equip themselves with knowledge and skills. During the year under report, 33 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

and 18 Agreement of Cooperation (AoC) were signed with various foreign Universities/ Institutions:

As on date, there are 104 functional MoUs and 61AoCs signed with various Universities/ institutions.

Activities of various Cells:

I have been reporting the activities of IPM, AIRF, Linguistic Empowerment Cell (LEC), Mathematical Empowerment Cell, IQAC etc., in every meeting of this august body every year since I took over. These initiatives can in other words be termed as Skill Development Schemes or Kaushal Kendras because of their significance and the important role these Cells are playing in empowering the students. So, I would like to report their activities and achievements to update the Members.

I. Intellectual Property Management Cell:

During the period 01.04.2014 to 31.03.2015, seven faculty members have applied for international patents.

II. Advanced Instrumentation Research Facility (AIRF) :

Achievements of AIRF

- AIRF has more than 5000 users coming from different parts of India and neighboring countries (Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka).
- AIRF is involved in assisting the research activity of around 600 students from different Science Schools of JNU.
- AIRF received a grant of Rs. 6 crore under the project entitled “JNU-DBT National Training Facility for state-of-the-art Equipment used in Biotechnology research” for the period of four years (May 2013 to May 2017) from Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India.

III. Linguistic Empowerment Cell (LEC):

Linguistic Empowerment Cell is a unique capacity building system evolved by JNU to empower the students, a very heterogeneous population, coming from different sections of the society, remote regions of the country who get admission with deprivation point system of JNU. 2649 students benefitted so far from all programs organized by LEC since its creation in 2011. The new initiatives of LEC are

- Indian Sign Language Course.
- Sanskrit for Beginners.
- Basic Hindi for Non-native Speakers.
- English Classes for wards of JNU SC/ST staff.

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IV. Mathematical and Computational Empowerment Cell (M&CEC):

The Cell has been offering intensive courses regularly for students as a fair degree of competence and skill in the application of mathematical, statistical and computational frameworks has become indispensable for pursuing advanced academic research in any discipline. Students have shown great interest in this programme which is offered in each semester. The Mathematical & Computational Empowerment Cell offers courses (Basic & Advance levels) on :

- Mathematics
- Probability & Statistics
- Computational Techniques and Data Analysis, including training in the use of appropriate software & packages for the benefit of students, faculty members & staff of JNU.

V. Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC):

The prime task of the IQAC is to develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic improvement in the performance of institutions. IQAC towards quality enhancement has initiated the process to adopt changes to be made in the API form for direct recruitment / CAS as per second amendment notified by UGC under UGC Regulations 2013; continued deliberations to maintain academic standards and issues of quality enhancement. The idea is to make the system of appointments as objective as possible and transparency ensured by putting all clarifications on the IQAC web page; and screened various applications for about 150 posts including cases of career advancements. The objective is entirely to ensure transparency in screening and selection process and ensuring adherence to UGC norms.

VI. National Service Scheme (NSS) Activities:

NSS organized various activities and programmes in the campus such as dissemination of Youth Policy 2014, tree plantation, blood donation, introduction of Tihar Jail products in the Campus for supporting the noble cause of rehabilitation of prisoners and education, gender sensitization and women safety, self-defence training, clean and green campus campaign for environmental protection, anti-smoking and anti-littering campaign, Swachh Bharat rally, run for unity, awareness on public health and wellbeing, palliative care sensitization, interaction on street children's issues, special lectures on various relevant subjects,

celebration of Jawaharlal Nehru's 125th Birth Anniversary, special orientation and personality development training camp. Volunteers also conducted small survey projects on labour, gender and environmental issues. NSS volunteers actively participated in Yamuna Cleaning Drive organized by UNDP and National Blood Donation Day Celebration by Govt. of India. National Service Scheme, JNU, organized a Programme on Yoga for Health and Well being in association with Yoga Kendra, JNU on the occasion of International Yoga Day on 21.06.2015.

VII. Community Engagement Cell: The Community Engagement Cell (CEC, initially called as CDC-Community Development Cell) is a new important initiative of the University being developed in deference with the deliberations held in the Central University Vice-Chancellors' Conference with the President of India who is also the Visitor of the University. Its objectives include promotion of sustainable development and inclusive growth, establishment of a link between students and the community, extension of learning to situations where it is required, encouragement of a positive lifestyle in the campus and giving students opportunities to develop their interpersonal and social development skills. To begin with, CEC has identified following five villages and the volunteers and officers have visited 4 villages several times. The first batch of skills training for 24 trainees from KusumpurPahadi has been completed, with job placemats for all of them. CEC is looking up for the second batch of trainees and other sectorial activities.

- 241 PBN (B), Pilibangan Block, Hanumangarh District, Rajasthan.
- Gajabari, gola Block, Gorakhpur District, Utter Pradesh.
- Abhanpur Gram Sabha, Tehsil: Bilari, District: Moradabad, Utter Pradesh
- Gotibandh, Tehsil: Sonebhadra, Utter Pradesh
- Attappadi, District Palghat, Kerala.

Activities of Community Engagement Cell (CEC):

The CEC's objective is to work on following programs among the target communities inhabiting the 5 slums/villages we have identified:

- Literacy Programs including basic adult literacy, financial literacy, legal literacy, environment literacy, health, hygiene and sanitation, digital literacy and family literacy.

Vice – Chancellor's Speech.....

- Remedial Classes for School-going children
- Bridge Program for school drop-outs
- Vocational Skills Training Programs
- Linguistic Empowerment Programs
- Community Awareness Programs
- Team-building (Group/Village Planning)
- Personality Development
- Business Communication
- Secretarial Practice
- Capacity-Building Workshops

JNU Alumni Affairs Cell and Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ):

JNU recognizes its alumni as its important stake-holders in its continued quest for excellence in education. In pursuit of this objective, we have established a JNU Alumni Affairs Cell which acts as a conduit to AAJ. AAJ was formed a few years ago with active participation of alumni in its activities since its creation. It has also brought its first Newsletter recently. We are proud that in the current Parliament, there are seven JNU alumni. JNU alumni are also holding other high ranking positions in Government, academics, industry, media and almost all walks of life.

Equal Opportunity Office:

Equal Opportunity Office has undertaken several activities like organizing remedial classes, workshops, seminars and lectures, striving to create a barrier free campus for the disabled, setting up of ATMs accessible to the disabled, procurement of wheel-chairs and blind sticks etc.

Gender Sensitization Committee against Sexual Harassment (GSCASH): JNU is the only University which adopted GSCASH policy in the country way back in 1999. Since then a lot of developments have taken place. The University had set up a Committee last year to look into the existing provisions and to incorporate new clauses in tune with the new guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the UGC in the form of Saksham, and also as per provisions of Work Place Act (2013). The revised GSCASH rules adopted by the University are in conformity with the Work Place Act (2013). All these provisions have been incorporated in the revised GSCASH Rules adopted by the University recently.

Recognitions / Awards:

The names of faculty who have been recognized for their contribution and have won awards/ prizes, etc. have been listed

in the Annual Report in the activities of respective Centres/ Schools. I am only mentioning a few of them here.

- **Prof. Shashiprabha Kumar**, Former Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, received the President's Certificate of Honour in Sanskrit for the year 2014.
- **Prof. Alok Bhattacharya**, School of Life Sciences has been declared the winner of the Aryabhata Bedal (2015) award.
- **Prof. C. K. Varshney**: Prof. Emeritus, School of Environmental Sciences, JNU, has been accorded honorary title of Distinguished Adjunct Professor by Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok.
- **Dr. Pritam Mukhopadhyaya**, Assistant Professor, School of Physical Sciences has been nominated for Swarna Jyanti Fellowship for the year 2013-2014 by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- **Prof. Niraja Gopal Jayal**, selected to receive Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Book Prize for 2015.
- **Prof. Dinesh Mohan**: Appears in the 2014 'highly cited researchers' list published by Thompson Reuters. This prestigious list includes those scientific researchers whose publications have been cited most often in academic journals over the past decade and rank among the top 1% most cited for their subject field and year of publication.
- **Prof. Dinesh Mohan**, named to "The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds 2014" published by Thompson Reuters. According to Thompson Reuters report: "These individuals are influencing the future direction of the fields, and of the world." The list includes 3,200 scientists around the world who have published the highest number of articles that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and year indexed in the web of Science.
- **Prof. Priyadarsi Mukherji**, conferred upon the 8th Special Book Award of China by the Vice-Premier of China, Ms. Liu Yandong, in recognition of Prof. P. Mukherje's long-term outstanding contribution to the translation and publication of Chinese works and cultural exchanges between China and India.
- **Prof. R. Rajaraman**, The 2014 Leo Szilard Prize given by the American Physical Society, USA, 2014.
- **Prof. Riddhi Shah**, C.V. Raman Award for Women in Science presented on the occasion of the VIIth National Women Science Congress (NWSC).

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- **Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar-FNA**, Indian National Science Academy.
- **Prof. Uttam Pati**- Elected Member, Guha Research Conference.
- **Dr. Abhinav Grover**-NASI Young Scientist Award 2014, NASI
- **Dr. Abhinav Grover**- represented India in BRICS Youth Summit held in Russia.
- **Dr. Nandita Saikia** - Raja Ram Memorial Prize (2013-2014), ISI, Kolkata.
- **Prof. Suman Dhar**, elected on Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA)
- **Prof. Amit Bhaduri**- awarded the prestigious Leontief Prize (2016) for advancing the Frontiers of Economic Thought.
- **Dr. Saradindu Bhaduri**-Selected to hold the prestigious Prince Claus Chair at International Institute of Social Studies in Hague, Netherlands.
- **Dr. Ramesh Gaur**- Winner of the 2013 Emerald South Asia LIS Research Fund Award.
- **Prof. Sharad K. Soni**- Conferred Mongolian State Award, the Nairamdal Medal. by the decree of the President of Mongolia in recognition of his work in Mongolian Studies as well as development of relations between India and Mongolia.
- **Prof. Jayati Ghosh**- selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiaiah Award for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies for 2015.
- **Prof. Vyjanti Raghavan**- Korean Award given by the President / Prime Minister.
- **Prof. I.S. Thakur**- Elected as Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, India.
- **Dr. Deepak Gaur** - Prestigious DBT National Bioscience Award for Career Development 2014.

Distinguished Visitors / Visiting Teams to the University:

Several distinguished dignitaries, Ambassadors of Countries, scholars and personalities visited the University as illustrated in the Annual Report.

Engineering & Infrastructure: During the year under report the status of works completed and those in progress is as under:

Projects Completed:

1. Construction of 24 Nos. Type-III flats of Paschimabad.

2. 15 KWP Solar Power Plant for Gomti Guest House.
3. 2 Nos Warden flats at Yamuna Hostel.
4. Up-gradation of electric substation at Uttrakhand.
5. C/o ramps, toilets, footpath, tactile paving etc for creation of barrier free campus in academic area, Godavari, Periyar and Kaveri Hostel.

Projects in Progress:

1. Construction of a Fellow`s Block for JNIAS.
2. Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) of 500 KLD near Saraswatipuram.
3. Fire Alarm & Protection System for Central Library, School of Environmental Sciences & School of Life Sciences.
4. 50 KWP Solar Power Plant at Aravali Guest House & Aravali International Guest House.
5. Installation of barrier free lifts in academic & hostel buildings.
6. Construction of dining hall for Yamuna Hostel.
7. Horizontal extension of hostel block at Old CRS building.
8. Vertical expansion of Study Block (International Students' Hostel), Old CRS building.
9. Construction of a Dormitory at Damodar Hostel area to accommodate students-under progress.

Projects under Submission for approval of Local Authorities:

1. C/o New Hostel (Shipra-II) compliant to Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA).
2. Construction of Academic Building.
3. NE Hostel

New Initiatives:

- **Global Initiative for Academic Networks (GIAN):** JNU has been peer-reviewed and selected for the first collection of courses to be launched formally, next month, in the country. Of the 11 courses, 4 belong to Humanities, Social Sciences and the Liberal Arts.
- **Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs):** JNU has submitted 9 papers (details are available <http://www.jnu.ac.in/mooc/courses.htm>), which can be offered through MOOCs platform but IITB/MHRD is initially considering only 3 courses to be launched on MOOCs:

Three courses are:-

1. Great Powers in the International System by Prof. Varun Sahni
2. Indian English: Language, Literature and Society by Prof. GJV Prasad

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3. Theories of Translation: An Introduction by Prof. Chitra Harshvardhan
- **Inspired Teachers:** Under this Scheme launched by the President of India who is Visitor of JNU, the University nominated Dr. Happymon Jacob, Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies for the in-residence programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan. He was invited by the Hon'ble President and he spent one week at Rashtrapati Bhavan
- Signed an agreement with Indraprastha Gas Limited for laying of PNG pipeline in the JNU campus for providing PNG connections in 17 hostels, office buildings and residences. Work of laying of PNG pipeline in the JNU has already started and will be completed in the next few months.
- Under Disabled Scheme: Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. Under its CSR initiative gave financial assistance to JNU for distribution of 50 laptops with customized software for the visually impaired students of JNU pursuing higher education which have been provided to these students.

BHEL has donated a disabled friendly A/c mini bus to JNU which is wheelchair assembled mini bus under its CSR project costing about Rs. 30 lakhs.

- A 95% disabled student has been awarded Ph.D title on Brain-computer interface in the School of Computer and System Sciences.
- India Coffee House at Aravali International Guest House inaugurated.
- JNU Press: The setting up of a JNU Press through Open Access System was decided last year to facilitate publications and wider dissemination of the research work of JNU faculty/scholars.
- Translation Cell: Created Translation Cell at University for quality translation. Modalities for implementation are being formulated.
- Organized Video Conferences of the Hon'ble President with students participation twice during the year.
- This year, two nominations have been sent to the President for award of best faculty prize under the Scheme launched by the President that of Prof. Alok Bhattacharya, School of Life Science and Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar.
- Devised formula to convert Grade Point Average into percentage as students passing out from JNU were facing a lot of difficulties outside.

- Earlier process of M.Phil/Ph.D dissertation / thesis evaluation took a long time. After introduction of Thesis Tracking System since August 2013, each case is minutely monitored and now we are receiving the reports from External and Internal Examiners in time.
- W.e.f. July 2015, Thesis Tracking System is extended to all Schools and Special Centres and they are forwarding the Panels of Examiners and thesis submission after uploading in the system keeping in look the JNU Library in respect of M. Phil and Ph.D. students.
- **Document on JNU: VISION 2020 AND BEYOND**

UPE-II

- We are actively working on projects approved by the UGC under this Scheme with more than 243 joint projects submitted by the faculty.

Ranking:

- JNU has encouraged teachers to showcase their work to the public at large. A working Group of Central Universities' Vice-Chancellors has been working on this actively to formulate ranking guidelines.
- JNU ranked in top 10 in India University Rankings 2015 conducted by the Centre for Forecasting and Research Pvt. Ltd.

It is my earnest hope that JNU continues to achieve greater intellectual eminence in its journey.

I shall complete my 5-year term next month. When I assumed office I was aware of the unique opportunity given to me to serve JNU. I am also aware that many things which were envisaged could not be achieved. I tried to do some small things with long terms bearings, like conduct of JNUSU elections as per Supreme Court's directions, start recruitment/ promotion of faculty as per new UGC Regulation; make appointment at higher and middle levels of officers as most of the pots were vacant. NAAC accreditation and grant of UPE-II status to JNU were two priorities. Others were: introduction of many new programmes, creating trans-disciplinary clusters, much needed all-round improvement in library services with ICT applications, streamlining of project administration, class-rooms, laboratories, online application of various services for admission to evaluation processes, timely award of degrees, barrier free campus and to provide appropriate facilities to PWD students; infrastructure and health services and e-governance. I hope gradually it will be implemented fully as more and more staff and faculty begin to do their daily dealings through e-office. University has conducted a

Vice – Chancellor's Speech.....

number of training programmes at all levels in this regard. A transparent administration was also the focus and we worked toward that.

As I prepare to demit office shortly, I would like to thank the Chancellor for all the creative guidance and support in our endeavours, the Honourable Members of Parliament for their valuable suggestions, distinguished members for their inputs, all my colleagues, officers, students and support staff for their cooperation and support. A special mention of Prof. Sudha Pai,

who retired from University service on 30.11.15 and was in my team as Rector. As Rector, she was very supportive throughout which made my job much easier. I would like to put on record my thanks and appreciation for her contribution and exemplary performance.

Finally, I would cherish memories of this new learning experience in JNU throughout the rest of my life.

Thank you all, once again.

Movements & Appointments

New Appointments / Deans / Directors / Chairpersons

- ◆ Prof. A. K. Pasha, Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies as the Director of the Gulf Studies Programme in the Centre for West Asian Studies of the School of International Studies, for a period of two years
- ◆ Prof. Bindu Puri as Professor in the Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences
- ◆ Dr. Partho Datta as Professor in Theatre & Performance Studies, School of Arts & Aesthetics.
- ◆ Dr. Mahendra Pratap Rana as Associate Professor in the Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Md. Tauheed Khan as Associate Professor in the Centre for Indian Language (Urdu), School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Minaketan Behera as Associate Professor in the Centre for Informal Sector & Labour Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Sameena Hameed as Assistant Professor in the Centre for West Asian Studies, School of International Studies
- ◆ Dr. Kali Chittibabu as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Informal Sector & Labour Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Anamitra Roychowdhury as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Saurabh as Assistant Professor in the Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Dr. Manoj Verma as Assistant Professor in the School of Physical Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Purva Yadav as Assistant Professor in the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, School of Social Sciences.

- ◆ Dr. Suryanandini Narain as Assistant Professor in Visual Studies, School of Arts & Aesthetics.
- ◆ Dr. Navaneetha Mokkil Maruthur as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Women's Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Dr. Paponi Bora as Assistant Professor in the Centre for Women's Studies, School of Social Sciences.

Administration

- ◆ Col. (Dr.) Hanuman Sharma as Controller of Examination in the University
- ◆ Ms. Geeta Joshi as Personal Assistant in Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Ms. Neha Sharma as Personal Assistant in Administration Branch-I.
- ◆ Ms. Kusum Joshi as Personal Assistant in Gender Sensation Committee Against Sexual Harassment.
- ◆ Shri Lokesh Dhobi as Personal Assistant in Administration Branch-I.

Retirements & Resignations

- ◆ Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector, JNU, in Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Prof. Abhijit Sen, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Prof. Akhilesh Kumar Verma, School of Physical Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Virendir Singh, Deputy Registrar, School of International Studies.
- ◆ Shri Ganga Prasad Devlal, Professional Assistant, Central Library.
- ◆ Shri Akhilesh Kumar Mathur, Senior Technical Assistant, Centre for Studies in Sciences Policy, School of Social Sciences.
- ◆ Shri Ramesh Kumar Vashist, Junior Assistant-cum-Typist IERB.

Movements & Appointments

- ◆ Shri Padam Bahadur, Head Cook, Jhelum Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Beer Singh, Head Mess Helper, Sabarmati Hostel.
- ◆ Shri Ganesh Bhadur, Security Guard, Security Branch.
- ◆ Shri Mahipal, Sanitary Guide, Sutlej Hostel.



Dr. Hanuman Sharma, Controller of Examination, Dr. Sharma, an alumni of Punjab University, Chandigarh and Jamia Millia Islamia Central University, New Delhi has varied experience of more than thirty seven years in teaching, administration, research and corporate endeavors. Prior to joining as Controller of Examinations at Jawaharlal Nehru University, he held prestigious positions of Professor; Director, General Manager of a Multinational Firm; and Controller of Examinations at Central University of Rajasthan and National Institute of Food and Entrepreneurship Management. His area of specialization is Industrial Relations in Human Resource Development. He has more than thirty-four research papers published in national and international journals to his credit. He has guided seven Ph.D. and four are under progress. He has authored two books, co-authored four books and published seven book reviews. He has carried number of research projects at national level, attended twenty five national/international conferences and presented research papers. He has also served in the army for about nineteen years and was at teaching, research and administrative posts.

Achievements/Awards

JNU confers honorary doctorate on Japanese PM



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who arrived here on 11 December, 2015 on a three day visit, was conferred with an honorary doctorate in International Relation by Jawaharlal Nehru University.

JNU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sudir Kumar Sopory conferred the degree on Abe.

Abe offered Japan's support for development of India and JNU. "I would like to reiterate my conviction which I repeatedly

express that Japan and India's relation has the greatest potential in any bilateral relationship in the world," he said.

"Japan will continuously offer cooperation for the development of India with the government and private sector working together. With regard to Japanese studies in JNU, taking into account its potential, Japan would like to offer its cooperation as to make Japanese education and Japan studies more robust," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, JNU VC Sopory said the Japanese leader was a natural choice for the varsity's honour owing to his international appeal.

"Prime Minister Shinzo Abe becomes a natural choice for JNU to confer the title of doctor of Philosophy in International Relations. He is a distinguished international leader for his role of networking with individual leaders, countries and multilateral institutions," the VC said.

"These programmes are playing very important role in imparting teaching and research and make strong impact on qualitatively improving Indian, Asian and global understanding of contemporary Japan and its foreign relations," he said.

Achievements/Awards

Prof. Sharad K Soni, CIAS, SIS conferred Mongolian State Award

The Mongolian State Award, the Nairamdal Medal was conferred on Prof. Sharad K. Soni, Director, Area Studies Programme, Centre for Inner Asian Studies, School of International Studies, JNU on 26 June 2015 by the decree of the President of Mongolia in recognition of his work in Mongolian Studies as well as development of relations between India and Mongolia. The Nairamdal (Friendship) medal, one of the highest honours bestowed upon a foreigner by the Mongolian Government, is solely given to foreigners who have contributed to strengthen the collaboration between their country and Mongolia through their work. The award was presented by the Chief of Staff of the President of Mongolia at Government House in the capital Ulaanbaatar.



JNU student with cerebral palsy completes Ph.D

Akshansh Gupta, a student of Jawaharlal Nehru University suffering from severe cerebral palsy has become the only student with the severe disability to complete a Ph.D from the varsity.

Akshansh Gupta, who hails from Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh, is suffering from 95 percent disability but managed to complete his thesis on 'Brain and Computer interface'.

JNU Vice-Chancellor Prof. S K Sopory awarded Mr. Gupta the Ph.D in a special ceremony. Cerebral palsy affects a person's movement and speech. A person suffering from the disorder has problem with precise motions, such as writing or buttoning a shirt. But against all odds, Mr. Gupta completed his five-year long thesis.

His Ph.D subject was "Performance Enhancement of Mental Task Classification: A study of Combination of Feature



Extraction and Selection Methods" from the School of Computer and System Sciences.

Gupta had also contested for the post of President in JNU Student Union election in 2011.

Campus Activities

Country and Society is the prime concern for JNU Alumni

New Delhi, on 28 – 29 November, 2015, Alumni Association of JNU (AAJ) organized 2-day Alumni Annual Get-together 2015 at the JNU Convention Centre, JNU Campus, New Delhi. On the first day, Media Persons' Meet was organized in the presence of JNU alumni Devi Prasad Tripathi, Member of Parliament

(Rajya Sabha) and Udit Raj, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha). The programme started with the release of the first AAJ Newsletter.

Speaking on the contribution of JNU alumni to the society, Udit

Campus Activities

Raj stated: "JNU alumni care not only about the campus but also for the society as a whole. JNU alumni are people of concern and values" and called this institution 'the galaxy of intellectuals'. He thanked the JNU VC Prof S K Sopory for paving the way for the AAJ, which today has become the only official alumni association of this international institution.

Devi Prasad Tripathi emphasized the values for which JNU stands. He defined JNU as 'Just National/Natural Understanding' and also appreciated the initiative of bringing out an AAJ Newsletter which will highlight and laud the efforts of JNU alumni. He further said that AAJ should be encouraged, especially internationally. He lauded the upcoming Alumni Guest House, Library and Data Centre in JNU, and suggested that all possible efforts must be made to concretise them.

The programme was largely attended by eminent media persons who are JNU alumni. Dilip Mandal opined that the subaltern and democratic thoughts of JNU should be wholeheartedly welcomed and encouraged. JNU's richness lies in its diversified culture.

Nadeem Ahmed Kazmi, the eminent media personality currently working for NDTV and the Secretary General of Press Club of India, expressed his anguish and pain over the media being termed as 'Prostitutes' in recent times and criticized the way media is branded. He vouched for the freedom of media as the basic condition for the survival of democracy and the responsibility of it lies with each one of us. He widened the scope of discussion by throwing light on the decline of trade unions in media industry and he also said that how various Press Clubs across the country could come forward to fill the void. While underlining the hardships being faced by the newcomers in the industry he also argued that the Press Clubs have evolved as a platform where the issues of wages, salary, etc. of media-persons are discussed and addressed.

Rajesh Kumar from India Today and the Vice President of AAJ questioned whether it was right to compromise with the ethics of journalism for survival through the competition and running after TRP ratings. Some enthusiastic participants also questioned whether 'Paid News' was a reality. Speaking on the issue of paid news, Mr. Kumar said that the potential of journalists has weakened over years owing to increased content of paid news. While answering the question of an alumni on whether media should only reflect what exists in society or it should play a leading role in forming opinions and guide the thought-process of the citizens, he underscored that media has a 'Reformatory as well as Informatory' role.



At the end of first day programme, AAJ President Prof. Devendra Chaubey drew attention to the AAJ plan of publishing a biannual or yearly journal providing a platform for the JNU alumni from diversified backgrounds like economics, history, and journalism to share their knowledge and opinions.

Ending the session, Prof. K.P. Vijayalakshmi, the Chief Advisor, Alumni Affairs, JNU, expressed satisfaction over the functioning of the association and assured that AAJ will be encouraged and nurtured by the university and it would be motivating if AAJ could reach many more alumni of the university.

On 29 November, after the General Body Meeting of the AAJ 2015 in the presence of JNU VC Prof. S K Sopory, 3rd JNU Alumni Annual Lecture 2015 was delivered by Uday Prakash, a JNU alumnus and eminent literary figure, who was the first person to have returned the literary award in protest against the deteriorating law and order situation in the country. He especially talked about 'The Role of Literature' in the present scenario of India. He stated that literature reflects the existing conflicts of society. Being a linguistic art, we cannot interpret it through politics or religion. Economic condition as well as culture is also reflected by literature. Our country is a treasure of stories.

At the end of the day, a cultural programme by children of JNU alumni and Kavi Sammelan and Mushayara were also successfully organised by the AAJ.

On the occasion, Prof. Talat Ahmad, Prof. R Kumar, Dr. Pranv Kumar, Prof. Meeta Narain, Dr. M.M. Kunju, Prof. D.K. Lobiyal, Dr. Praveen Kumar, Dr. Ganpat Teli, Dr. Anisur Rahman, Sanjay Kumar Jha, T. Ranganath, Vakil Ahmad, Mustaque, Dr. Joyee Ghosh, Prof. S. K. Pandey, Dr. Ved Mitra along with more than 300 hundred JNU Alumni were also present.

Ved Mitra
Internal Activities Convenor, AAJ

Seminars/Conferences

Report on Conference on the Indian Economy

The ICSSR held a two-day conference at the JNU Convention Centre over 17 – 18 September, 2015, on the occasion of the release of the three volume set jointly brought out by ICSSR and Oxford University Press, “Research and exploration on the Indian economy”. The volumes were edited by three CESP Professor: Prabhat Patnaik (Macroeconomy), C. P. Chandrasekhar (Indian industrialization) and Jayati Ghosh (India and the international economy). Noted scholars from across India spoke at and participated in the conference, along with the editors and authors of papers in the edited volumes. Speakers included Prof. S.K. Thorat (Chairman ICSSR), Dr. Bimal Jalan (former Governor of the RBI), Prof. KL Krishna and Prof Aditya Bhattacharjea of the Delhi School Of Economics, Dr

Ramesh Chand (Member, Niti Aayog), Dr. Pronab Sen (Chariman, National Statistical Commission), Dr. Rammanohar Reddy (Editor, Economic and Political Weekly), Prof Chandan Mukherjee (Pro Vice Chancellor Ambedkar University Delhi) as well as scholars from Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai and elsewhere. The discussions covered all the various themes in the three volumes and the conference closed with a panel discussion on the state of the economics discipline in India, which generated much interest among the large audience including students of JNU and other universities in Delhi.

**Jayati Ghosh, Professor
Centre for Economic Studies & Planning, SSS**

Kannada Language Chair inaugurated at JNU

Noted space scientist and Chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dr. K. Kasturirangan, has urged the Karnataka government to extend all facilities and support to the newly started Kannada language chair in JNU.

Addressing the huge gathering during the inaugural function of the newly established Kannada language chair at JNU convention center on 26 November, 2015, he said that the State government's support was very important in keeping the Centre functioning and achieving its targets. He also promised that JNU would also extend all possible help to the chair to

make it an important study Centre so that it can attract more students and researchers in the coming days. 'As Kannada is one of the vibrant languages of the country, the Centre will certainly function as a key organization in spreading Kannada and its rich history,' he said.

During his inaugural address, noted historian Prof. S Shettar said there was an urgent need for translating ancient and medieval Kannada texts into modern Kannada and important Kannada texts to other Indian languages and the newly started centre should take the lead role in it. 'Ancient language texts in Tamil and Kannada face this problem, because not many of the present day Tamilians and Kannadigas know how to consult them. There cannot be a better place than this School of Language, Literature and Culture studies, of which the Centre of Indian languages is a part, to take up this challenge,' he added.

He also requested the Karnataka government for sanctioning more grants to the Centre for its stability and continuity. As the Centre has to take up a lot of activities, including workshops, seminars, conferences and lectures, the Karnataka government must grant more money by re-planning its funding pattern.



Seminars/Conferences

Chairing the function the Vice Chancellor Prof. S.K. Sopory said that JNU is striving hard for promoting studies and research in Indian Languages, is currently thinking to convert 'Centre of Indian Languages' into 'School of Indian Languages' where courses in Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Kannada, Bangla, Marathi, Odia, Telugu, Assamese and other Indian Languages could be introduced. 'The university is looking forward to setting up a School of Indian languages which will undertake Masters programs and research courses in Indian Languages' he said.

Rector Prof. Sudha Pai welcomed the guests and Dean, Prof. Rekha Rajan gave vote of thanks.

The function followed by a beautiful Yakshagana- Vir Abhimanyu performed by Yakshakala Academy, Bangalore.

The Kannada language chair started functioning at the Centre for Indian Languages, School of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, JNU from 1 October, 2015. Noted scholar Dr. Purushothama Bilimale assumed office as Professor of Kannada at the Centre.



The Karnataka government provides Rs 43 lakh per year to the chair for a period of five years for both academic activities as well as for maintenance of the establishment.

**D.K. Choubey, Professor
Centre of Indian Languages, SLL&CS**

Challenges and Strategies in Plant Biology Research

The Indian Society for Plant Physiology organized the 3rd International Plant Physiology Congress with the theme "Challenges and Strategies in Plant Biology Research" in association with National Institute of Plant Genome Research, Jawaharlal Nehru University and American Society of Plant Biology, USA. The ISPP congress was held in Convention Centre, JNU, New Delhi from 11 – 14 December, 2015. This 3rd congress was aimed to bring together the eminent scientists and scholars in the area of plant biology to revisit the emerging challenges, major concerns and key strategies in the field of plant science. Moreover, this provided a podium for information exchange and sharing novel findings in the area. It also provided opportunities to young scientists and students to present their research findings and exchange ideas with the prominent scientists working in leading areas of plant biology. Prof. Sudhir K. Sopory Vice Chancellor, JNU chaired the congress and Prof. Ashwani Pareek, JNU and Dr. Madan Pal, IARI were the convenor. David Bergvinson, Director General,

ICRISAT was the keynote speaker while there was be several plenary lectures and concurrent sessions on each day by the prominent researchers across the globe. Speakers provided a road map to improve crop potential under adverse climate in sustainable way and to use crop plants for mitigating adverse changes in the climate by environmental pollution. This congress provided an excellent platform for young emerging scientist with more than thirteen young scientists delivering their talks on diverse topics. More than 600 posters were there to provide insight to recent development in plant sciences.

This four days congress thus, aimed to provide better deliberations to all of us to explore our research areas and plan future strategies that will enable us to cope up with the problem of food and nutritional security at a global level.

**Ashwani Pareek, Professor
School of Life Sciences**

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2015

International Day of Persons with Disability was celebrated with great fervour on the 3 December, 2015 by the disabled students of Jawaharlal Nehru University at the JNU premises. It was organized by Visually Challenged Students' Forum, JNU in collaboration with Equal Opportunity Office, JNU. The venue for the programme was SIS 203 second floor.. The theme for the programme was, "Celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2015: Marking New Horizon from MDGs to SDGs".

The programme was divided into two sessions. The inaugural session commenced at 3:30 was presided by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Sudhir Kumar Sopory. Apart from the Vice-Chancellor, it was attended by several dignitaries from the University and outside: Professor Manu Mittal, Chief Equal Opportunity Office, JNU; Professor Nilika Mehrotra, Professor at CSSS, JNU; Chief Librarian Prof. Ramesh C Gaur; PK Pincha, Former Chief Commissioner for PWDs; Jagdish Chandra, Associate Professor, Hindu College, Delhi University; Dr. Mahavir Prasad Yadav, Professor, Lakshmi Bai College, Delhi University; Dr. RK Sareen, Assistant Professor, Satyavati Evening College, Delhi University etc. The Programme was also attended by good number of disabled and non-disabled students from various universities including JNU and DU. The aforementioned session was hosted by GunjanKumari, a research scholar at the Centre for English Studies (SLL/CSS) JNU, and Co-convenor, JNU Visually Challenged Students Forum.

The programme resumed at 5 PM after the high tea break. The second session was titled "Disability Policy and Discourse in India". This session was hosted by Pankaj Singh Kushwaha, a research scholar from School of International Studies, JNU and Convenor, JNU Visually Challenged Students Forum. This session was chaired by Prof. Nilika Mehrotra, Professor, CSSS, JNU.

Various scholars presented their point of views on diverse topics pertaining to disabilities. The first speaker of the panel was PK Pincha, Former Chief Commissioner for PWDs and Special Rapporteur, UNHRD. He shed light on the topic, "India's Commitment to UNCRPD. Illuminating upon the topic, he first spoke about the history and technicalities of UNCRPD, followed by India's commitment to it. He said that India's commitment to UNCRPD is not up to the mark, and that there is need to take up the challenges posed to us. The topic was greatly debated and discussed.

The second speaker in this chain was Jagdish Chandra, Associate Professor, Hindu College (University of Delhi). He

reflected on "Terminology in Disability Discourse". While reflecting on terminology in disabilities, he presented his point of views on various disability-related terms such as "Handi-capped", "differently abled", "persons with disabilities", "disabled person/s" etc. He also brought in the debate as to how people with different disabilities wish to be referred to in different parts of the world. For instance, in a country like India, blind people prefer to be addressed as "blind" instead of the native word "Andha". Being an interesting topic, his presentation was discussed with zeal and passion. The discussion became all the livelier by the contributions and criticism by students and professors present in the hall.

The third speaker, Prof. Mahavir Prasad Yadav hailed from Lakshmi Bai College, Delhi University. He expressed his views on "The Experience of Researchers with Disabilities: A Reflection". Deliberating upon this topic, he recounted the contribution of great people who achieved incommensurable success despite their disabilities. Beginning from the laureates Soordas, Homer and John Milton, he went on to count the contributions made by Ved Prakash Verma and other scholars, thinkers and artists with disabilities. Coming to a much harsher reality, he said that people with disabilities are not welcomed by the professors when it comes to research. Research scholars with disabilities, despite being devoted and hard-working, remain at a vulnerable position due to the disabling system. His propositions were greatly debated.

The final speaker of the panel was Dr. RK Sareen, Assistant Professor, Satyavati Evening College (University of Delhi). He deliberated upon a crucial issue, "Twenty Years of PWD Act 1995: Its Failures and Achievements". His findings about PWD Act were thought-provoking and highly debatable at the same time. Throughout his presentation he argued that Persons with Disability Act is nothing but an illusion, and that the very idea of introducing such an act is futile. However, his propositions were greatly refuted by the audience. Many students contended that in a country where disabled people got some respite due to this act could not be rejected out rightly.

All these lectures were followed by a wholesome and fruitful discussion. The discussion concluded with the final remarks of the chair, Prof. Nilika Mehrotra. Vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Manu Mittal, Chief Advisor, EOO, JNU, followed by dinner.

**Gunjan Kumari, Research Scholar
Centre for English Studies, SLL&CSS**

Seminars/Conferences

XXXV INCA International Congress 2015



The XXXV INCA International Congress was organized by the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, JNU under the aegis of Indian National Cartographic Association from 15 – 17 December, 2015 at the Convention Centre, JNU. The theme of the Congress was centred on “Spatial Governance for Development, Planning Smart Cities and Disaster Management”. The Congress was a mega event and was attended by more than 500 participants with nearly 250 papers being presented. Prof. Anuradha Banerjee, President INCA and Professor, CSRD, JNU presided over the event and was ably supported by the Local Organizing Committee.

The Congress hosted reputed scholars and the renowned Todarmal and Prof. S.P. Chatterjee Memorial Lectures by eminent academics, Prof. Laszlo Zentai, Secretary General of International Cartographic Association and Professor at the Department of Cartography and Geoinformatics, Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary and Prof. Prithvish Nag,

Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidhyapith, Varanasi and former Director of National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organization and former Surveyor General of India. There were other distinguished academics from universities spanning the entire country as speakers and panelists. The Congress had two plenary sessions featuring prominent speakers, two panel discussions on Gender Atlas and Disaster Research Programme, JNU and 15 technical sessions across three days covering recent trends in cartography for development planning, spatial aspects of governance for urban local bodies, geo-spatial technologies for planning smart cities, cartography for population, environment and development, geo-spatial approach and regional development, cartography for disaster management, geo-spatial technologies for sustainable tourism, natural resource monitoring and management, rural planning and decentralization, mountain cartography; cartography education and e-learning courses, mapping social exclusion and discrimination, historical cartography, web maps and atlases. There were two sessions dedicated for industry-delegate interaction, by ESRI and GAIL. Both were highly appreciated by the audience. Cultural programme featuring Ghazals, classical dances and special programme by students was also organized at the end of the first and the second day.

Anuradha Banerjee
President INCA & Professor
Centre for the Study of Regional Development, SSS

One-day National Seminar on “Recent Trends in Nano-bio Interface”

The Special Center for Nanosciences (SCNS) organized a One-day National Seminar on “Recent Trends in Nano-bio Interface” on 18 December, 2015. It was attended by more than 60 participants drawn from 11-institutions located in the NCR region. The speakers were from IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jamia Hamdard, NPL, NII, ICGB, Amity University, Delhi Technical University and JNU. The initial remarks were given by Prof. H. Bohidar, who elucidated the importance of Nanoscience in biology, and in particular, to the emerging applications in medicine. He also drew the attention of the participants to the challenges lying ahead. Dr. Neetu Singh of IIT Delhi, Dr. Indrajeet Ray of Delhi University, and Dr. Zeenat Iqbal of Jamia Hamdard elucidated the broad spectrum use of various nanomaterials in drug delivery applications. The second session was dedicated to use



of nanotechnology for clinical diagnostic. Dr. Anita Verma of Delhi University, Dr. Monalisha Mukherjee of Amity University and Dr. P. R. Solanki of JNU systematically outlined the possible use of nanotechnology in sensing bioanalytes, cell imaging, and diagnostics. Dr. D. Santhiya of DTU, Dr. Nisha

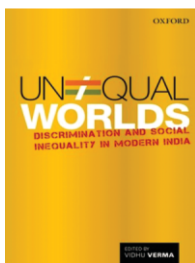
Seminars/Conferences

Pawar of IIT Kharagpur, and Dr. Roli Purwar of DTU, described the therapeutic applications of various nonmaterial's in the third session. The use of smart nonmaterial's in biology and agricultural sciences is an emerging area of research that promises to hold many novel applications; this was the theme of fourth session. These aspects were lucidly elucidated by Dr. Meetu Gupta of JMI, Dr. M. Sardar of JMI and Dr. K. Rawat of IUAC. At the outset Dr. Anil Kumar of NII drew the attention of

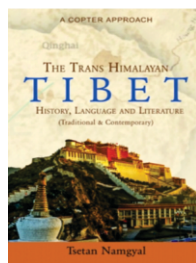
the scientists and researchers towards the issue of patents and intellectual property rights. The day witnessed lively, and engaging discussions on multiple facets of nanobiotechnology. The Seminar ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. P. Solanki, Coordinator.

**H. B. Bohidar, Chairperson,
P. Solanki, Associate Professor
Special Center for Nanoscience**

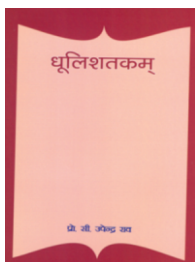
Our Publications



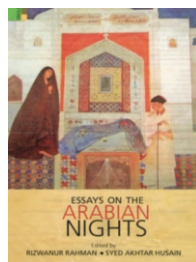
“Un Equal Worlds Discrimination and Social Inequality in Modern India” edited by Prof. Vidhu Verma, Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences. Published by Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199453283.



The Trans Himalayan Tibet: History, Language and Literature by Tsetan Namgyal, Assistant Professor, Centre for Inner Asian Studies (Tibetan Studies) School of International Studies. Published by Manakin Press Publication. ISBN: 9789384370176.



“Dhoolishatakam” a Sanskrit poem, by Prof. C. Upendar Rao, Chairperson, Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Published by Prithvee Prakashan, New Delhi – 2014.



“Essays on The Arabian Nights” edited by Dr. Rizwanur Rahman, Assistant Professor, Centre of Arabic and African Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies & Dr. Syed Akhtar Husain, Associate Professor, Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, published by Primus Books, ISBN: 9789384082000.

In Conversation With.....

Interview with Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor, JNU (28.01.2011 - 27.01.2016)



JNU News: When JNU News interviewed you when you took over as VC, we asked you what your primary challenge was, and you had responded that your immediate challenge was to make administration responsive to colleagues, students and all other stake holders because you believed that good administration is must for a good University. Do you believe you have managed to achieve this goal?

Prof. Sopory: My aim for the last four five years has been exactly what you just stated- to make administration responsive as well as transparent. The attempt has been to move towards e-governance, in which direction we have initiated quite a few e-governance programmes in the last four years. The other concern had been the delay in the evaluation of theses because examiners were being appointed late and there were delays in receipt of reports etc. So, we developed the e-thesis tracking system which is now working very well and has now been linked with institutes recognised by JNU

which has made the procedure of appointment of examiners smoother. The booking of guest houses can now happen online. Steps have been taken in the direction of e-office too, and while the required system has been put in place, there is still more work to be done. This, of course, will instil more accountability and transparency into the system if all stake holders perform their duties properly. We are also working on the system of "compliance reports" which comes from every section of the administration where all the names of all the office bearers are mentioned along with details of all the received, pending and passed files. Suitable action is taken against people who sit on files for more than fifteen days. All in all I have demanded a certain kind of work ethic from the staff here.

JNU News: We continue to draw from the first and second interview with you. In the latter you mentioned that you were unhappy with the 'Project Cell' and that there was much left to be desired from it. What are your views on it now?

Prof. Sopory: So, the one significant thing was that we dissolved the separation between administration and finance. This one thing we did brought them together physically as well, in that, now finance and administration are all in one place and the movement of files is now smoother. The reports and records are now much simpler to view. I haven't received too many complaints either. The objective has been for everyone to be able to work smoothly and within norms and regulations. There is more work to be done however. For instance, to receive concessions on par with operatives in CISR and others. A lot of faculty members still manage to maintain academic excellence despite the shortcomings of the system and serve as lessons for managing to make the best use of the existing system.

JNU News: This brings us to our next topic. Your second aim was to raise the academic profile of the University, to raise the bar of performance, to make our publications of enviable standards. You mentioned your vision to be that of taking JNU to what it used to be, with people of stature in it. How far have we advanced in that direction in last five years?

Prof. Sopory: I think there has been a definite step forward in that direction. I myself helped compile the productivity of JNU from 2011-12 to 2014-15 where there has been a definite rise- in terms of the number of MPhil and PhD submissions and a steep rise in publications of academic articles and books, and increased participation in academic activities such as seminars

and conferences. Today morning a student came to inform that his paper had been selected for publication in a prestigious journal. I think there has been an increase in excitement- from what I gathered in my meetings with students on Mondays and with my meetings with faculty members- everyone wants to excel in whatever they are doing. I personally feel that the academic environment has improved and there is an increase in output, but of course there is always scope for improvement. Without trying to compare anyone, I would say that in their respective areas, there have been recognitions, but as I said, a lot remains to be desired.

JNU News: In your second interview you had mentioned that the problem is not performance but the reporting of the performance. Do you think that had changed?

Prof. Sopory: That has partly changed but this is an area where we need to improve a lot since we are unable to showcase JNU in the right perspective sometimes. Of course we have given all sorts of data to ranking agencies worldwide as a result of which JNU figured in the top hundred places in certain rankings and a few centres too featured on some such lists. However, from our websites, from writings of the faculty, all the data to the agency- amidst all this there seems to be some link that is missing.

JNU News: We think this is about the academic-administration link. Somehow the administration is not able to collect all the data of the academic work being done within the University. In an interview, you once mentioned about a form you had sent to all the faculty members and less than 200 filled it.

Prof. Sopory: To this day when I check the website, and check profiles of the faculty, a lot of them still have not filled it. This is despite reminders from Web-Manager, and my personal writings to them. I don't know if it is indifference or a hesitation of some kind. Even for the annual academic report for which we send a page long form that very few of them fill up. I think academicians of Centre and School levels need to own up to a lot of responsibility if we want to tell what JNU has achieved. We are in the process of collating data on the academic qualifications of faculty members that we have collected in last three years. The idea is to link all this information which will be kept in one place so that the Director, CIS will be responsible for managing this academic data. The librarian also compiles data and collects books and papers written by faculty members, the dissertations and theses submitted by scholars in

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M.Phil and Ph.D programmes. The plan is to have a website which lists all these academic material, including courses offered by faculty members and the suggested readings. So, while we are working on it, I have realised that data collection is the hardest of the tasks and a lot depends on the response one gets which comes, yes, but not exactly within the time scale.

JNU News: You had mentioned when you came that you wanted to see more communication to happen within members of faculties across disciplines, and secondly, for students to be empowered, to build up on their strengths- for instance, for research scholars to float their own courses to be audited by others in order to make them feel as part of belonging to this academic discourse. How far have you succeeded in this direction?

Prof. Sopory: What we have tried to create, is a sort of transdisciplinarity- these virtual clusters under whose umbrella faculty from across disciplines can get together, discuss, write joint proposals and projects which can be funded through agencies outside. At least eight to ten projects are running now many of which have been funded from outside sources also. The other thing that happened was when we got the UPE-II project where two people from across centres and schools can get together, and there are quite a few projects of that nature now. Under the UPE-II we are running over 135 projects now involving more than 300 faculty members- a huge academic activity which has come about by meeting and discussing ideas with each other. Some of these projects are so interesting that the other day I asked the Rector to organise day-long events once in a while, where people associated with UPE-II discuss about the work they are doing. The other thing I did was, when we would get new faculty members, I would call them for a meeting once every three-four months where conversation centred around their academic background, the kind of work they were doing etc. We had one such meeting just a few days ago where something interesting happened. One faculty member mentioned that they were working on a certain topic while another faculty member from a different discipline and from a different place said they too were working on the same area. It was pleasantly surprising to see them deciding to write something together. More such meetings are needed where new faculty members, all of them, can sit together and discuss such matters. We had started a series on transdisciplinary seminars which ran successfully for two

years but stopped as the person at the helm had to leave, and not much interest was shown by people in charge after him. The drive has to come from within centres and schools, not only from the Vice-Chancellor.

Similarly we started the JNU Forum for Mutual Learning in the library where students from across departments meet every second Saturday and discuss what each of them is doing while others listened. There were some very intense discussions between them. They decided to organise a symposium too.

Another experiment we did in some schools was to organise faculty-students seminars some of which resulted in publications of books to which students had contributed chapters. Another pleasant experience for me was the other day when some Tibetan students had come to meet me and when I asked them what they had been working on in terms of research, they showed me a book by a good publisher where they had contributed chapters on very interesting topics.

JNU News: Since we are talking about students, one of your prime achievements has been the reinstatement of students' election on campus which you had mentioned in your first interview as one of your primary goals...

Prof. Sopory: The matter was stuck between High Court and Supreme Court and we had to write to the authorities about the need for an elected Students' Body to bring students' issues to the administration. Last four years have seen successful conduct of these elections. We have regular meeting with the Academic Council and JNUSU. JNUSU in fact, meets me any time. I have cordial relationships with all of the representatives individually. They come, they demonstrate on genuine issues such as hostel issues that we discuss. They put forward their arguments, we convince them or get convinced -either way- and the issue is resolved. And I must give credit to them that when I explain to them that some things are not possible and provide them with requisite proof, they understand.

The other day they came bearing a picture of mine to present to me on my birthday where I was smiling – and there are hardly any pictures where I have smiled-. My wife too was surprised seeing the picture (smiles). I used to regularly meet students from the 'Unnoticed group' too. I get emotional sometimes seeing those students who come from such varied backgrounds and have achieved so much. And we want to continue to provide them with this space.

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JNU News: This has always been the strength of JNU...

Prof. Sopory: Yes. All these students from different places, an overwhelming majority want to achieve so much. With the support of the faculty, a guiding light, they would be able to do so much better. Some of them are so bright. I am asked why there has not been a single poster against me in the last five years to which I respond that the idea is to not be a VC to students, but to be a teacher. I have always done my duties from that perspective. They were free to meet me any time, any where.

JNU News: But one of the things that remain unresolved is the hostel issue.

Prof. Sopory: I agree. However, they do acknowledge that I have worked a lot on the matter. This issue has been stuck because the Ministry of Forests directed us to the Ridge Management Board, which sat on it for eighteen months. We were later told that the Board has approved the proposal but we are still waiting for a formal response from them. I will talk to them again today, remind them. I agree that this has been a failure on my part. It is a Vice Chancellor's duty to provide accommodation for all, to provide academic facilities for all, and run other such expansion programmes. I tried to do whatever was within my means, but it was not enough. I told the Government to relieve me early since I could not fulfil my duty. Students had been sitting on hunger strikes demanding hostels, and I felt this to be a genuine cause and I wanted to end the suffering of these students but I felt helpless because the matter was beyond my control. I did explain this to the students on strike and they understood and offered to take the fight to the Ministry themselves.

JNU News: Are you hopeful of a resolution now?

Prof. Sopory: I have been told that the matter has been approved. But we have not received the letter permitting us to cut the 30-40 trees that is required for the work to start. For last two months we have been waiting for that one letter to come. These things that are beyond the domain of JNU, are difficult to get done. Newspapers have been calling it my one failure and I accept it.

JNU News: Your greatest success has been in the domain of recruitment- recruitment of new teachers, promotions of existing ones...

Prof. Sopory: It was required actually. Some 60-70 professors were retiring when I joined. That would have led to less than 300 teachers in the University and we could not have had that. I spent a lot of time, for the recruitment process. I could not focus on other issues while this was going on. We had about 500 meetings regarding recruitment, and we finally managed to recruit about 200- many of whom are yet to join. A few had joined but had to leave because their spouses could not be accommodated, or there were accommodation problems, one was not getting adequate laboratory space. I felt bad about these. And these are our limitations which we need to be rid of if we want the best of faculty in the University. However, yes I agree that this aspect has been one thing we are happy about.

JNU News: The other thing, and rightly so, has been that the students are getting their certificates and degrees on time now...

Prof. Sopory: Yes. It happened because we decided to computerise the whole system. So now we can immediately print out the marksheets for the students. Certificates are all bar-coded now. The other thing, I am glad I could do, was to create a barrier-free campus. We paid attention to the needs of the differently-abled and worked accordingly. The work still isn't complete. We need more lifts, but not many bids came. The matter is close to a resolution in next two-three months. We have also managed to provide computers to the visually-challenged and are in the process of providing more. There will also be a bus for them now which will be running soon. The money for all this has come from CSR schemes.

We were celebrating the birthday of Braille the other day and these students told me they did not want me to go. It was nice to hear them say that. They have to overcome so many challenges in order to get themselves educated. They are such an inspiration for the rest of us. I was present at the convocation of one who had earned his PhD. There are a few others who have achieved so much at such young age and despite such odds...

JNU News: Another thing from our very first interview was that you mentioned that the happiness index of JNU was very low at the time and that you hoped it would go up in the next five years. Do you think it has gone up?

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Prof. Sopory: I think you will have to ask that from others (smiles). But there are a few centres and schools which still need to work on it. I have realised that the happiness quotient lies within you. Your environment can give you some scope to seek happiness but the rest has to come from within. Two people can not fight over creating and seeking happiness (laughs). The idea is to learn to respect each other for what they are rather than judge them for what they are not. Adjustments are important. They all may not be your friends, but should not be your enemies either.

JNU News: There are some other new initiatives that you took...

Prof. Sopory: There are the 'Linguistic and Mathematics Empowerment Cells'. They have expanded on to Hindi and sign language now too. A lot of students have and continue to show interest in this. Mathematics cell is getting a lot of response too, but needs more support from faculties for some of their programmes.

JNU News: What are the other initiatives in your time that make you feel good?

Prof. Sopory: Quite some. Mainly attention has been given on academics. The output has increased. We have the e-governance system, then the faculty recruitment process, barrier-free campus, NAAC accreditation and Wi-Fi. I would also mention about the smooth functioning of the International Collaboration Cell through which many academic programmes and projects are being undertaken.

JNU News: Wi-Fi was your first priority...

Prof. Sopory: Yes. And it took some time. Funds were required. I made presentations and have now received the entire fund from the MHRD. The Guest House and academic and administrative blocks have been covered. As we move forward, each and every part of the campus would be Wi-Fi enabled. Gas pipeline has already been laid out. And other little things- the first documentary on the campus could be made. We focused on strengthening of the alumni association.

JNU News: The other thing that you had mentioned you wanted to do was repair faculty residences and hostels- some

of which are very old now. What has been the source of difficulty here? Funds?

Prof. Sopory: Yes. We did manage to make certain small repairs, but could not fully renovate these structures. Old furniture which was lying and gathering dust had to be disposed off. But yes, we need more funds. Our own money is so limited. More work needs to be done as part of sports facilities. Equipments have been provided in hostels but much more work is needed. We also need to have more cultural activities in the campus. I have kept aside some money for some of these activities. Some money was kept aside for our Karamcharis and officers for cultural and sports activities by them. They were very happy to be part of such a programme. The appointment and promotion of Karamcharis too needed work and I think we were able to resolve quite a few of these issues. But there is so much one can do.

I don't know how many benefited from it, but I gained a lot from my tenure, from my interactions with students, karamcharis, colleagues from outside my own domain. I am a bit wiser I guess (smiles) by interacting with people outside my own area. Seminars and conferences required that I had to prepare for them, read up on those subjects and topics.

JNU News: Any regrets?

Prof. Sopory: The hostel issues of course. I should have been able to do it. And two three other incidents on campus. And I always felt bad about fining students- there were so many of them. I felt like a policeman sometimes which was not pleasant at all. I sometimes had to resolve issues with teachers which I wished I did not have to do.

One big regret has been that I could never be a student of JNU. It would be great if I could come back as a student after retiring. Someone asked which school I would like to join and I said I would like to join School of Arts and Aesthetics. There are certain ideas that one could do some research on. But definitely not School of Life Sciences.

JNU News: And if you can not make it to SAA, you can come to any other Humanities and Social Science centres.

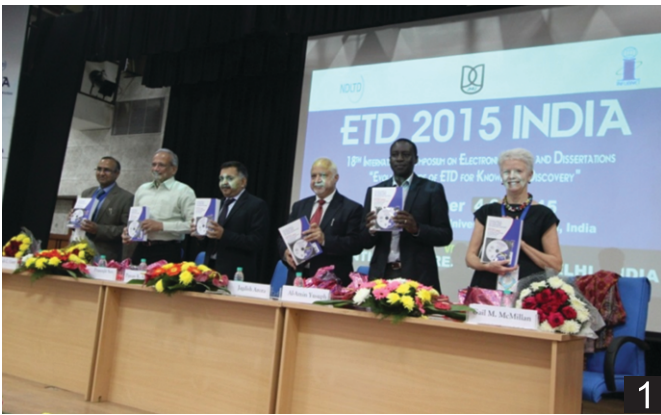
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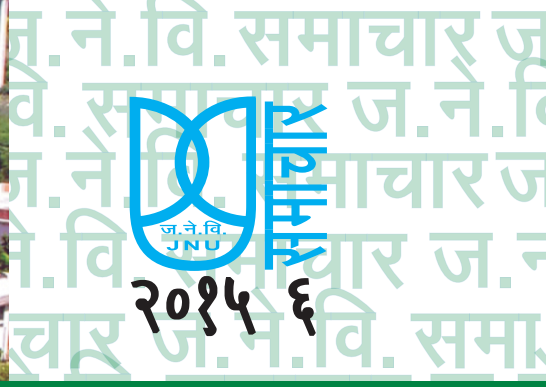
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Photo Gallery



1. Central Library, Jawaharlal Nehru University Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations, USA Information and Library Network Centre organized ETD 2015: 18th International Symposium on Electronic Theses and Dissertations on 4 November, 2015. Photo shows: Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, Librarian; Prof. Prasenjit Sen, Rector-II; Shri Pawan Kumar Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India; Dr. Jagdish Arora, Director, INFLIBNET Centre; Mr. AL-Amin Yusuph, Adviser (Communication and Information) for South Asia, UNESCO and Dr. Gail M McMillan, Director, Scholarly Communication & Professor, University Libraries, Virginia Tech, USA
2. School of International Studies organized the Diamond Jubilee (1955-2015) on 4 November, 2015. Photo shows: Prof. Ajay Patnaik, Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies; Prof. Anuradha Chenoy, Centre for Russian & Central Asian Studies, School of International Studies; & Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor.
3. Office of the Dean of Students organized the Inauguration Ceremony of the dormitory extension of the Damodar hostel on 26 November, 2015. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector; Prof. S.K. Goswami, Dean of Students with others officials.
4. Jawaharlal Nehru University organized a Felicitation function of Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector on 30 November, 2015. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor with Prof. Sudha Pai, Rector.
5. Linguistic Empowerment Cell organized first two-day Intensive Workshop on EAW: Spoken English and Presentation Skills on 4 – 5 December, 2015. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor; Prof. Vaishna Narang former Dean, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies with other invited guest & faculty members.
6. Professor Sarah Derrington, Dean, T.C. Beirne, School of Law, the University of Queensland, Australia visited JNU on 9 December, 2015. Photo shows: Prof. S.K. Sopory, Vice Chancellor and Prof. Sarah Derrington, Dean, T.C. Beirne, School of Law, the University of Queensland, Australia with Members of Delegation.





विश्वविद्यालय की विशेषताएँ होती हैं; मानववाद, सहिष्णुता, तर्कशीलता, विचार का साहस और सत्य की खोज। विश्वविद्यालय का काम है उच्चतर आदर्शों की ओर मनुष्य जाति की सतत यात्रा को संभव करना। राष्ट्र और जनता का हित तभी हो सकता है जब विश्वविद्यालय ठीक से अपने दायित्वों का निर्वाह करें।

—जवाहरलाल नेहरू



7. An 8-member delegation headed by Rector of Maulana Malik Ibrahim Islamic State University Malang, Indonesia visited JNU on 11 December, 2015. Photo shows: Prof. Varun Sahni, Chief Advisor, International Collaboration; Prof. Prasenjit Sent, Rector-II with Members of Delegation.

8-10 **Court Meeting on 3 December, 2015**



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